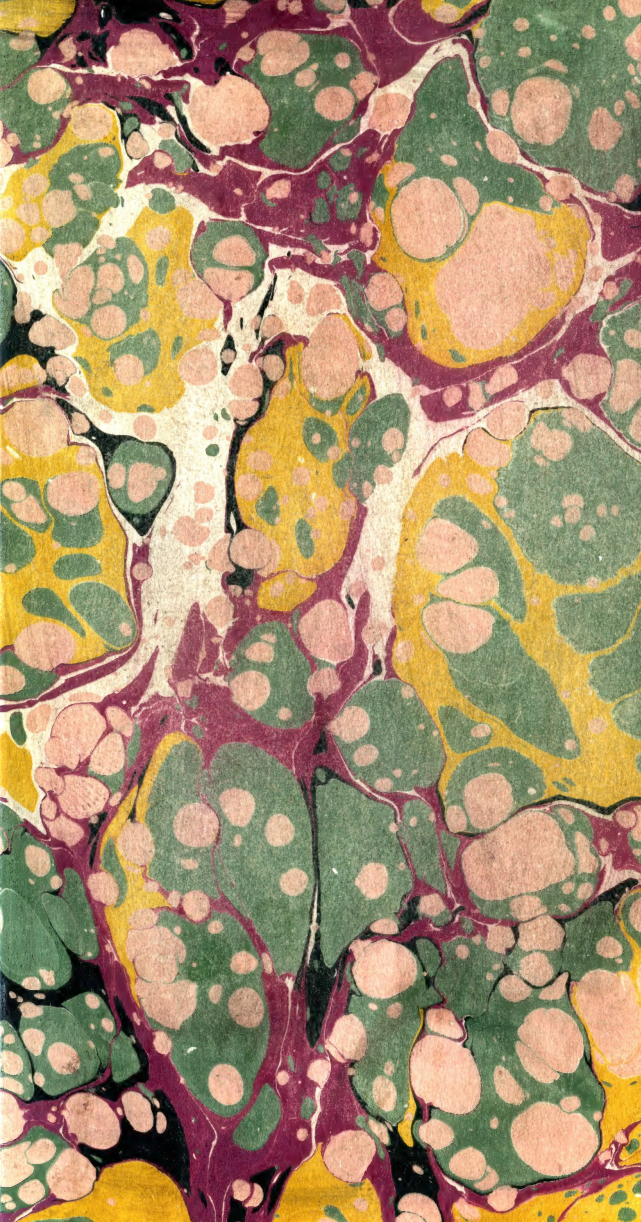

Mrs HUGHES.
Mr HUGHES.

THE COMPLEAT HORSEMAN;

OR, THE ART OF RIDING MADE EASY:

Illuſtrated by

RULES DRAWN FROM NATURE,

AND

Confirmed by EXPERIENCE;

WITH

DIRECTIONS to the LADIES to ſit gracefully, and ride with Safety.

Adorned with various ENGRAVINGS, finely executed.

By CHARLES HUGHES,

Profeſſor of HORSEMANSHIP, at his RIDING-SCHOOL, near Black-friars Bridge.

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[Price ONE SHILLING.]

To their MAJESTIES.

SIRE and MADAM,

THE Honour I have received in the EXHIBITION of my FEATS of ACTIVITY on HORSEBACK before Your MAJESTIES, made me ambitious of wiſhing that this little Treatiſe on the ART of RIDING might appear under Your auguſt PATRONAGE. If there be any Thing in it inconſiſtent with the manly Rules of this generous SCIENCE, the beſt HORSEMAN, the moſt acccompliſhed GENTLEMAN, and the moſt Glorious MONARCH in the Univerſe, will diſcover and pardon the Errors of

Your MAJESTIES moſt obliged,

obedient and devoted

Subject and Servant,

CHARLES HUGHES.

THE

COMPLEAT HORSEMAN.

THERE is not, among the whole Animal Creation, a beaſt of a more noble and generous nature than the horſe; nor any one ſo capable of contributing to the eaſe and pleaſure of mankind. In the horſe, we know not which to admire moſt, the beauty of his form, the docility of his temper, or the various powers with which he is endowed.

Having long made the management of horſes my ſtudy, as it ever was my delight, I preſume I may, without the imputation of vanity, lay down thoſe rules to others which have been ſo uſeful in my own practice. I ſhall, therefore, without farther apology, ſubmit my obſervations to the candor of the public, not doubting of pardon for any little errors, which the perpetual hurry of my buſineſs may have occaſioned.

IT is generally allowed that good properties, though the gift of Nature, may be greatly improved by art, and perfected by practice. Nature, art, and practice, then, ſhould unite in the ſame perſon, to form the accompliſhed horſeman.—A perſon ſo qualified need not be told when and how to aſſiſt his horſe; and yet if he has a jade to deal with he may find all his ſkill and labour loſt. On the other hand he, who has a horſe of a good diſpoſition, if he has not judgment to manage him properly, will probably loſe all the advantage and pleaſure of the nobleſt animal in the world.

To avoid ſo diſagreeable a circumſtance, let the rider conſider whether he has learnt the art of juſt management; and let the following rules be the teſt of his abilities.

1. Does he underſtand the true and perfect ſhape of horſes?

2. Has he made himſelf maſter of the natural cauſes of their goodneſs and badneſs?

3. Is he acquainted with the reaſons for his own practice? For by this means he will ſee what a hand-maid art is to nature; and diſcern that the actions of a perfect ſhaped horſe are eaſy, quick, and ready, agreeable to the perfection of his nature; qualities naturally bred in and exerted by him

him, and not the reſult of correction; and which a good rider will cheriſh with all poſſible mildneſs and gentleneſs. It is the unſkilfulneſs of riders, that, for the moſt part, is the occaſion of thoſe complaints we frequently hear of reſtive and ungovernable horſes, and their bad performances. It is the want of juſt taſte that makes a bad horſeman. Has a young ſportſman got a horſe he cannot manage, the method he takes to tame him is by hunting till he tires him. And yet, give the horſe but a week's reſt, and he will be as ungovernable as before. And it is a very juſt obſervation, that a man cannot manage a horſe at all, if he cannot manage him when in full ſpirits.

Managed horſes that are taught their motions only for parade, are not fit for the road or hunting. And therefore this part of horſemanſhip is quite uſeleſs to the generality. I ſhall therefore ſay no more of this part of the art here, but attend only to what may be generally uſeful.

There are perſons, however, who urge that what is taught a horſe in the manage will not ſpoil his paces; and that by his diſcipline there, he is accuſtomed to have *no will of his own*, ſo that an indifferent rider can eaſily manage him.

I will

I will not deny but that this might be the caſe, if the maſters would teach the art of riding on the *hunting* or *common ſaddle*; or, if a perſon unacquainted with the rules preſcribed there, would initiate himſelf in the riding-houſe, and make himſelf maſter of ſome general principles, which he might occaſionally apply to another manner of riding. In the mean time, my preſent buſineſs is, to give ſuch rules, whereby an unſkilful horſeman may be inſtructed to ride more eaſily and ſafely than he otherwiſe could.

I will therefore begin with ſuch matters as are principally required for the true performance of ſuch actions, as art teaches for helps, corrections, or cheriſhings, whereby a horſe is made tractable, agreeable, and uſeful.

The chief things uſed for helps, are corrections and cheriſhings, which may be reduced to theſe three heads, *viz*, the voice, the hand, and the leg.

If you wiſh to help your horſe with your voice it muſt be in a mild and chearful tone; and in ſuch like words as theſe, *ſo ſo*, *well done*, *good boy*, *poor fellow*, &c. but uſe no harſh or terrible words, which will rather frighten than ſooth him; but ſpeak to him with a mild and ſweet voice, at the ſame time inclining or bending your body toward the horſe.

The

The management of a horſe is likewiſe greatly promoted by the hand. By gently patting, clapping, or ſtroking him on the neck or ſhoulders, he is cheriſhed. Alſo, the hand, by the ſtroke, jerk, or ſound of the rod or wand, is ſometimes very uſeful, and often helps by practiſing mildly and gently with it, but by ſtriking him too hard, he is corrected to his diſpleaſure. Further, by ſlacking the bridle in your hand, he is eaſed and cheriſhed: and you correct and oppreſs him when you draw it hard.

I ſhall be more particular on the hand and bridle, as they are the principal things by which a horſe is managed. If a rider would mount a horſe properly, he is not to ſtand near the croup or hinder part of the horſe, with the bridle at a great length in his right hand; for ſo, you are liable to be kicked before you are mounted, or the horſe may go on, and play his gambols after you are mounted, before you can ſhorten the rein to prevent him. If you would mount with eaſe and ſafety, ſtand rather before the ſtirrup, than behind it. Then with your left hand, take the bridle ſhort, and the mane together, help yourſelf into the ſtirrup with your right, ſo that in mounting your toe do not touch the horſe. Your foot being in the ſtirrup, raiſe yourſelf, till

you

you face the ſide of the horſe, and look directly acroſs the ſaddle. Then with your right hand lay hold of the hinder part of the ſaddle, and with your left lift yourſelf into it. Thus having a ſure hold with both hands, you may either diſmount ſafely, or throw your leg over, and ſeat yourſelf, without danger of diſturbing your horſe.

On getting off the horſe's back, hold the bridle and mane in the ſame manner as when you mounted; hold the pommel of the ſaddle with your right hand, to raiſe yourſelf; bring your right leg over the horſe's back, let your right hand hold the hind-part of the ſaddle, and ſtand a moment on your ſtirrup, juſt as when you mounted. But beware that in diſmounting you bend not your right knee, leſt the horſe ſhould be touched by the ſpur.

You muſt always hold the bridle at a proper length. Let your poſition on the ſaddle be ſquare, and the purchaſe of your bridle ſuch as not to pull your ſhoulder. Let your body be in ſuch an even poſture, as if you held a rein in each hand. Graſp the reins with your hand, putting your little finger between them. Your hand muſt be perpendicular, the thumb uppermoſt, upon the bridle. Your wriſt ſhould bend a little outward, and in pulling the bridle, lift your

your hand toward your breaſt. Hold your bridle in your hand at ſuch a length, that, if the horſe ſtumble, you can raiſe his head, and ſupport it with your arms, by throwing your body backwards. If you give the rein too much length, the riſing of the horſe may occaſion your falling backwards.

Allowing you know your horſe well, and can ſafely truſt him with a ſlackened rein, extend your arm, but not your ſhoulder, a little forward, but keep the rein at the uſual length. Thus you will always have it in your power to give your horſe a check, while you allow him his way.

If you ride with a curb, hook it on yourſelf: for, however quiet your horſe may be, ſhould the curb hurt him, he may endanger his rider's neck. When you fix the curb, turn the chain to the right, and the links will eaſily unfold. Let the chain be put on ſo looſe as not to preſs upon his jaw, till the reins are drawn ſomewhat tight.

If the beaſt be gentle in temper, and has been taught to ſtand ſtill when mounted, a groom to hold him is uſeleſs; however, ſuffer him not to finger the reins, but only to meddle with that part of the headſtall which comes down the horſe's cheek. The management of the reins belong only to the rider; and to hold a horſe by the curb when

when he is to ſtand ſtill, is very wrong, becauſe it puts him to needleſs pain.

I will now treat of the rider's leg, by which are meant the calves, the heels, the ſtirrup and the ſpur. As ſoon as the rider is mounted on a horſe's back, let him ſit quietly a few moments, leſt any ſudden motion ſhould diſorder or diſturb him, till the rider is well ſettled in the ſaddle, with his noſe directly oppoſite to the horſe's foretop, betwixt his ears, his legs hanging ſtrait down, neither thruſting forward the toe, nor lifting up the heel, but with the ball of his foot flat in the ſtirrup, as if he ſtood upon the ground, the ſtirrup leather rather ſhort than long, winding his toes ſomewhat nearer to the horſe's ſide, than the heel, holding the reins even with his creſt, and with the point of the withers, a little above the mane, with his thighs and knees cloſe to the ſaddle: ſitting with his body erect, his ridge bone anſwering to the ridge bone of the horſe; ſo that the horſe and rider may ever ſeem as one body in all motions; and let the rider ſtroke and clap him gently with his hand, to divert him of all fearful apprehenſions.

The diſpoſition of the legs and thighs being eſſential to the keeping a graceful ſeat, it may be proper to deſcribe their uſe ſomewhat

what diſtinctly. To ſit on that part of the horſe, which, as he ſprings, is the center of motion, is to have a *good ſeat*; and from which, it naturally follows, a weight could not eaſily be ſhaken. The true ſeat is certainly in that part of the ſaddle, into which the body naturally falls in caſe you had no ſtirrups; and this you can no otherwiſe preſerve, than by a juſt poiſe of the body. Many riders hold the miſtaken opinion, it may be done by the graſp of the thighs and knees.

We may form a judgment of the true ſeat, by pointing out the two extremes of a bad one; and the firſt of theſe extremes is, when a rider places himſelf ſo far back on the ſaddle, that his weight preſſes hard on the horſe's loins; the other, when he throws his body ſo forward, that it hangs over the pommel of the ſaddle. The firſt is the common practiſe of grooms who affectedly ride with ſhort ſtirrups; the latter, by timorous horſemen, who are frightened at the leaſt flutter the horſe makes. Every good rider has as *determined* a place for his thighs, even on the hunting ſaddle, as can be fixed for him by the bars of a demi-peak.

Nevertheleſs a good ſeat cannot be obtained unleſs the ſaddle ſits well; and perhaps it is not very eaſy to preſcribe a certain

rule in this caſe. However this may ſerve as a direction, that your ſaddle ſhould preſs as near as poſſible on that part already deſcribed, as the point of union between the man and horſe, yet ſo that the motion of the horſe's ſhoulders be not obſtructed. The middle or loweſt part of it, is your proper ſeat. Sit erect, unconſtrained, or as free as in your ordinary ſitting. The true gentleman is always known by the eaſe of his action.

When you are troubled with a horſe that is vicious, which ſtops ſhort, or by riſing or kicking endeavours to throw you off, you muſt not bend your body forward, as is commonly practiſed in ſuch caſes; becauſe that motion throws the breech backward, and moves you from your fork or twiſt, and caſts you out of your ſeat: but the right way to keep your ſeat, or to recover it when loſt, is, to advance the lower part of your body, and to bend back your ſhoulders and upper part. In *flying* or *ſtanding* leaps, a horſeman's beſt ſecurity is, the bending back of the body. The riſing of the horſe does not affect the rider's ſeat; he is chiefly to guard againſt the laſh of the animal's hind legs, which is beſt done by inclining the body backward. Obſerve farther, that your legs and thighs are not to be ſtiffened,

and

and as it were braced up, but your loins ſhould be lax and pliable, like the coachman's on his box. By ſitting thus looſely, every rough motion of the horſe will be eluded; but the uſual method of fixing the knees only ſerves, in great ſhocks, to aſſiſt the violence of the fall. To ſave yourſelf from being hurt in this caſe, you muſt yield a little to the horſe's motion; by which means you will recover your ſeat, when an unſkilful horſeman would be diſmounted.

Take likewiſe particular care not to ſtretch out your legs before you; becauſe in ſo doing, you are puſhed on the back of the ſaddle; nor muſt you gather up your knees, as if you was riding upon a pack, for then your thighs are thrown upwards. Let your legs hang perpendicular, and ſit not on the thickeſt part of your thighs, but let them bear inwards, that your knees and toes may incline inwards likewiſe.

If you find your thighs are thrown upwards, open your knees, whereby your fork will come lower on the horſe. Let the hollow or inner part of the thighs graſp the ſaddle, yet ſo as to keep your body in a right poiſe. This will be a means to keep your ſpurs from the horſe's ſides, and to bring your toes in properly. Let your heels hang ſtrait down, for while your heels

are in this poſition, there is no danger of your falling. This will ſecure the ſeat on a full trot, or even on a ſwift gallop.

You muſt fix on the length of your ſtirrups by your ſeat. If a more preciſe exactneſs is required, let the length of your ſtirrups (of a hunting ſaddle) be ſo proportioned, that when you ſtand on them, there be the breadth of four fingers between the ſaddle and your body.

If a gentleman has not yet acquired the art of riding, let him procure it in a large circle, without ſtirrups. Let him keep the face directed to the outward part of the circle, yet ſo, as to have a view only of the ear, or ſide of the horſe's head, which is on the outward part of the circle, and keep his ſhoulder on the other ſide very forward. This will teach him how to ballance his body, and maintain his ſeat without the help of ſtirrups; and perhaps may prevent a fall, if he ſhould happen at any time to loſe them, by being ſhaken out of his ſeat by the horſe's ſtarting ſuddenly.

There is a particular connection between the ſeat and the ſaddle, ſo that the firſt depends very much on the latter; wherefore it may be proper to obſerve, ſo that a high pommelled ſaddle is thought dangerous, the contrary extreme ſo far prevails, that the

the pommel riſes ſcarce higher than the middle of the ſaddle. The ſaddle ſhould be fitted to reſt as near the back-bone of the horſe as poſſible, without hurting him, for the nearer you ſit to his back, the ſafer is your ſeat. From hence it is evident, that the pommel muſt riſe enough to preſerve the withers from being preſſed. So that if a horſe ſhould happen to have his withers higher than common, a higher pommel is neceſſary. But to avoid this, you propoſe to make the ſaddle in a ſtraighter line, that is, the whole length of it, from the withers to the crupper, almoſt even. But this will be attended with the ſame inconvenience; and you are ſeated too high above the horſe's back, nor can you find a proper ſeat on the ſaddle. From the button at the ſide of the pommel, to the back part of the ſaddle, there ſhould be no ridge; and for the eaſe of your thighs, that line ſhould be a little concave.

The beſt deſcription I can give of a ſaddle is, that it ſhould be *perfectly* adapted to the ſhape of the horſe.

If you are diſpoſed to put your horſe in motion, raiſe his head, and ſlightly touch him with your whip or wand; or elſe, preſs his ſides with the calves of your legs, and ſtill cloſer, if he does not mend his pace, till

the ſpur juſt touches him: after which, if he has any ſpirit, he will move with the leaſt preſſure of the leg. When you ſpur him, let it not be by a kick; but if you want to puſh him on briſkly, keep your heels cloſe to his ſides; but when you find him compliable, ſpare him.

If your horſe grows unruly, take the reins ſeparately, one in each hand; put your arms forward, and hold him ſhort; but pull him not hard with your arms low; for by lowering his head, he has the more liberty to throw out his heels: but if you raiſe his head as high as you can, this will prevent him from riſing before or behind; nor, while his head is in this poſition, can he make either of theſe motions.

When your beaſt is headſtrong, do not hang on his reins by a continued pull, but ſtop, and put him back often, juſt ſhaking the reins, and pulling him frequently, and by degrees you will bring him to his duty. Horſes, when they go forward, are ſo uſed to bear on the bit, that they are diſcouraged by a refuſal to let them do it.

A conſtant pulling likewiſe makes a looſe necked horſe throw up his head; in which ſituation, the front of his face appearing to the rider, he loſes his command over him. When you obſerve this, let your hand fall, and

and ſlacken the bridle, and he will quickly drop his head into its proper place; and while he is falling it, give a gentle pull, and you will have his mouth again. By this method, a horſe has been ſtopt, in the diſtance of a few yards, in the midſt of his career, when he has run away, which all the rider's pulling could not effect. It has been often remarked that a horſe goes faſter, inſtead of ſtopping, when he feels himſelf pulled.

The rider who deſires to have his horſe make a ſtately appearance, muſt keep his head high, which will oblige him to raiſe his neck and creſt; and play a little with the rein, which will move the bit in his mouth, to hinder him from preſſing on it. There is no danger in raiſing his head too high; he will be too apt to bring it down of himſelf, and fatigue your arms with its weight, whenever he abates of his mettle. At ſuch times as you feel him heavier than ordinary, ſtop him, and make him go back a few paces. Thus his hanging on the bridle will be cured by ſlow, but ſure degrees.

Many are pleaſed with a round neck, and a head drawn in toward the cheſt; but theſe are not a horſe's beauties. When a horſe bridles in his head, provided he carries it aloft,

aloft, with his neck arching upwards, he is in his proper attitude; but when he bends his neck downwards, his figure is diſagreeable, his ſight and toes are too near together, he hangs on his bridle, nor will he obey command. 'Tis an undoubted ſign that a horſe is ſure-footed, if he preſſes lightly on his bridle, and you can eaſily guide him. If, on the other hand, he hangs down his head, and weighs you down on his neck, with your arms bearing on his fore legs (called, *being on his ſhoulders)* he will be liable to ſtumble, from the circumſtance of ſtriking his toes on the ground.

If your beaſt hangs heavy on the bit, tie him for an hour or two, once a day, with his tail to the manger, and by a rein on each poſt of the ſtall, tied to each ring of the ſnaffle, let his head be lifted as high as you can, and let him remain in that poſture, which will ſoon effect a cure.

Horſekeepers and grooms agree, that the head ſhould yield to the reins, and the neck form an arch, but they take no care to make it arch upwards. They ſay, that attempting to raiſe a horſe's head, makes him puſh out his noſe, that his head is too high already; but they forget that it is not the diſtance from his noſe, but from the top of his head to the ground, which ſhould be

the

the proper meaſure of the height or lowneſs of his head.

The neck is raiſed, and the head brought in, by the lifting up of the head; for, even while the bridle is in a ſtrait line from the hand to the bit, it is eaſy to draw in, or thruſt out the horſe's noſe, juſt as the neck is raiſed or depreſſed. Horſekeepers commonly uſe a contrary practice, and break their colts with their heads caveſoned very low, their necks ſtiff, without allowing them the leaſt freedom or ſuppleneſs. When the breaker has finiſhed his operations, and taken off their capariſons, they are mounted for the road, when enjoying more food and reſt, and having not been properly taught in the manage, they frequently plunge, which renders it neceſſary to break them a ſecond time. And as few gentlemen know how to manage their horſes, they are committed to the care of their grooms, from whom, it is highly probable, they will learn many bad habits. Thus, by a wrong management at firſt, the owner is often deprived of the pleaſure and ſervice he expected from his horſe's good qualities and beauty.

Allowing, however, that your horſe carries his head, or his noſe, too high, yet by moving his ſhoulders lightly, and going

ſafely,

ſafely, he makes you ſome amends. Obſerve attentively the cauſe of this fault. The necks of ſome horſes are ſet ſo low on their ſhoulders, that they can have no other motion, but to bend firſt down, and then upwards, like a ſtag's. Some have their necks too ſhort. A head ſet on ſuch a neck has not the liberty to bend inwards, ſo as to form an arch, becauſe the neck-bones are too ſhort to be flexible; and yet the number of vertebræ, or bones, in the long and ſhort necked horſes is the ſame. In ſome, again, you will find the jaw ſo thick, that it adheres to the neck, whereby it becomes impoſſible for the head to bend. In others, the under line from the jaw to the breaſt is ſo very ſhort, that the neck has not room to riſe.

Although theſe faults are not to be entirely rectified, ſtill ſomething may be gained by a nice hand with an eaſy bit; but no uſe muſt be made of a curb, martingale, or other compulſive method; for none of theſe will force a horſe to carry his head or neck in any poſition which nature has made uneaſy to him.

Light mouthed horſes muſt be treated in the ſame manner as thoſe which have looſe necks; to which may be added this caution, namely, carefully to examine whether the ſaddle

ſaddle girth be ſo fixed as not to pinch him, or that the bit, by being placed too high in the mouth does not hurt his lip; for either of theſe cauſes will make his head unſteady, and the beaſt will be apt to fret.

Many perſons, to ſhew their own ſkill, or the ſpirit of the horſe, are conſtantly pulling at the bridle. For this reaſon horſes are generally taught to hold their heads low, and pull ſo ſtrongly, as to raiſe the rider from his ſaddle, and to ſtand in his ſtirrup, tho' but in a gentle gallop. The impropriety of which we may be convinced of from occular evidence, when we ſee a horſe that gallops in a different manner. We cannot help ſaying, he canters excellently well, and find by experience the eaſe and pleaſure of his motion. But an exception will remain as to horſes bred for the turf, where ſwiftneſs is the principal thing deſired.

A rider ſhould never correct his horſe, but when gentle means and cheriſhing will not prevail; which every horſe of a good temper will yield to, if he be made ſenſible, what, how, and when to do that which is required of him. But the horſe that will not be moved by gentle means is undoubtedly of a bad nature. But if it ſhould happen that correction becomes neceſſary, correct him moderately at the inſtant he errs.

errs. But the contrary practiſe we are all witneſſes to, when we behold the common horſe-breakers and ignorant riders to miniſter the moſt horrible and violent corrections, when the beholder cannot ſo much as ſee a cauſe, nor the corrector himſelf give a tolerable reaſon for his inhuman ſeverity. So that it is evident, that when a horſe has been taught, and yet deviates from his diſcipline, he ſhould be puniſhed at the very inſtant he commits the error, but never correct him for ignorance.

It is obſerved that dealers are conſtantly pulling at their horſes, laying their ſpurs to their ſides, and continually checking them, not by way of correction for any fault or error they have committed, but to make them bound and champ the bit, while the rage they are in is boaſted of as an inſtance of their ſpirit. The manner of their riding with their arms ſpread, and low on the ſhoulders of the horſe, makes them ſtretch their necks, and gives a better appearance to their forehands. By this means they alſo cover a thick jaw, which, otherwiſe, would not yield to the bit; and likewiſe hide the ewe neck. If, indeed, your horſe is unſteady to the bit, has naturally a heavy head, or obſtinately carries his noſe in the air, you

muſt

muſt do your beſt with him, and find his mouth as well as you can.

Whipping of horſes becauſe they ſtart, ſerves only to increaſe the fault. How is it poſſible he ſhould know that it is intended as a puniſhment? In the riding-houſe, indeed, a horſe is taught to riſe up before, to ſpring and laſh out his hind legs, by whipping him when tied between two poſts, allowing his head a little liberty. If he was ſenſible that this was a puniſhment for his acting in that manner, that method would by no means teach him to do it. By the ſame method he is taught to ſpring and fly when frightened. There are few horſes but would paſs quietly by an object they were beginning to fly from, if their riders would throw the reins on their horſes necks, inſtead of ſnatching the bridle ſhort in the hand.

When a horſe ſtarts at any thing on one ſide of him, moſt riders will turn him out of the road, and force him up to the thing he ſtarts at. If this does not rid him of his fear and make him readily comply, in paſſing the object, he makes a great circle with his crop out of the road; inſtead of which he ſhould be taught to keep ſtrait forward, and not regard ſide objects.

When he ſtarts at any thing on the left, hold his head high, and keep it ſtrait for-

ward in the road, pulling it away from the thing he ſtarts at, at the ſame time preſſing your leg cloſe to his flank. He will then go ſtrait forward on the road: and if you turn his head a little more, his croup may be forced up to the object that frightened him. Never quarrel with your horſe if you can help it. If he is apt to ſtart, occaſions enough will offer to teach him obedience. If the thing lies directly in his way which he ſtarts at, force him to paſs it; but do not quarrel with him for trifles, if he is not accuſtomed to ſtarting.

Notwithſtanding theſe directions for paſſing an object may take place in the caſes above-mentioned, yet perhaps it may not be ſo well adapted to a managed horſe, which has been accuſtomed to obey the leg. Yet even in this caſe, if the horſe is really afraid, and not reſtive, unleſs you would familiarize him to the object of his diſpleaſure, it will be proper to turn his head aſide.

It is too general an opinion, that it is neceſſary to force a horſe to go up inſtantly to the thing he is afraid of, and how unwilling and reſtive ſoever he may be, he ſhall not be ſuffered to prevail againſt his rider: but this is carrying the matter a little too far. A horſe that has not been uſed to the ſound of a drum, diſcovers his fear when he hears it. The beſt method to conquer this fear is,

is, to beat a drum near him when he is feeding. By a frequent repetition of this noise, it becomes familiar to him, nay, is pleasant, and he takes it as a forerunner of his meat: whereas, had he been whipped or spurred up to it, it is very probable he would have started at it ever after. May it not be as reasonable to suppose, that a horse may be as successfully cured of starting at other things by gentle usage; and that his fear would be more easily conquered, by permitting him to go a little from, and avoid an object, which at first sight terrifies him, till, by a frequent sight of it, it is familiarized to him, and he is convinced that it will do him no hurt? This seems a much better way than to punish him, fall in a passion, and at last perhaps be obliged to submit to his will. And should he ever meet with the same, or a similar object again, you will surely encounter the same difficulties.

People in general think that a horse stands in fear of nothing so much as his rider: but this is not univerially true. May it not happen that he is terrified with the dread of instant destruction? of being overwhelmed, drowned, or of falling down some horrible precipice? If so, can we be surprised, that the sight of a loaded waggon should make him shudder, and unwilling to pass it? May

he not apprehend, that what ſeems to hang over his head, will fall upon him? To convince him, therefore, that there is room for him to paſs, obſerve this rule: turn his head a little from the waggon, and preſs your leg hard againſt that ſide which is fartheſt from the carriage.

Is it not reaſonable to imagine, that if a horſe is forced towards a carriage which he has ſtarted at, he will think he is obliged to attack or run againſt it? Can it be imagined that the rider's ſpurring him on with his face directly to it, he ſhould underſtand as a ſign to paſs it? We all know how apprehenſive a horſe is of the approach of the leaſt danger to his face and eyes, inſomuch that he jerks back his head from the hand that offers to touch him in that part, tho' it be only to careſs and make much of him. Nor can he be compelled by any means (if he can avoid it) to go face to face even to another horſe. Neither the clapping a horſe's neck to encourage him, nor the whipping him for ſtarting, will produce any good effect. All that need be done in this caſe is, to make him ſenſible by ſome tone or expreſſion of your voice, to which he has been accuſtomed, that you diſlike his action. For you may depend upon it, that if a horſe once foils his rider, he will always prove

ſtubborn

ſtubborn and diſobedient; and therefore the gentleſt methods will be found to be the beſt.

Yet though I cannot allow the compelling a horſe up to a carriage he ſtarts at, yet if you ſhould meet with one at a narrow part of the road, which you think will frighten him, after you have made him ſenſible he is to paſs, do not flinch from your purpoſe, but reſolutely puſh him on; eſpecially if part of the carriage is already paſſed you; for if he has been uſed to back and turn round, when frightened, you may aſſure yourſelf he will not do it if he perceives your hand ſlacken, or feels not your legs preſſing him; and this at a point of time, when both you and the horſe are in the greateſt danger, that is, when the wheels of the carriage may take him as he turns. Be ſure at this time not to check him by touching the reins of the curb.

There is no kind of bit equal to the ſnaffle, nor any that ſhould be more ſparingly uſed than the curb. The moſt proper ſnaffle is that which is thick and full in the mouth, at leaſt let the ends, to which the reins are faſtened, be ſo. Thoſe that are made ſmall and long cut the horſe's mouth, and falling back on the bars of the jaw, give him great uneaſineſs.

I do not propoſe to lay down exact rules for the management of the curb; ſuffice it only to obſerve, that the greateſt caution is required in the uſe of it. It is the gentle turn of the wriſt you muſt apply to it, not the ſtrength of the arm.

If a horſe cannot perform any thing readily, never put on a curb to compel him to it. A ſnaffle will give you power enough over his head to turn it any way; but as a curb acts only in a ſtrait line, you can only uſe it in the ſame direction. By a curb you may turn a horſe out of one track into another, but it is becauſe he takes it only as a *ſignal*. If you put on his curb when he is to draw a chaiſe, in which he is obliged to take a larger compaſs in turning, the neceſſity of which he does not apprehend, you will probably find him *reſtive*; but uſe the ſnaffle only, or faſten the rein to that part of the bit which does not curb him, and you will find him pliable to your pull, and be ſoon ſenſible of the duty required of him. Such is the right treatment of a horſe of ſpirit, and a good mouth. But if he has neither of theſe, treat him as you like—it is impoſſible to give directions.

In taking a journey, you are not to regard the fine carriage of your horſe, ſo much as the encouragement you ought to give him, and to employ

employ all your thoughts how to keep him in a good humour. That both yourſelf and horſe may proceed with the greateſt eaſe and pleaſure, keep his head raiſed; but if you find he flags, you may ſuffer him to bear a little more on the bit, than you would do in an airing. If your horſe falls lame, is tender footed, or tired, you will ſoon be ſenſible of it by his hanging on the bridle, which is the natural conſequence of his ailment. Your chief reliance, therefore, for the performance of his journey with ſpeed and alacrity, will depend on his mouth, which you will find in good order as long as his ſtrength laſts; and likewiſe on the goodneſs of his feet; which, that they may be always in good order, watch the farrier very carefully.

Whenever he ſhoes your horſe, let him not hollow his feet, but pare them quite flat, and chiefly at the toe. The farrier, to make his work look round and neat, gives the finiſhing ſtroke at the end of the horn of the hoof, above the toe. Now as this is the moſt uſeful part of the hoof, nothing can be taken from it without weakening it in the moſt eſſential part. Suffer him not to pare the heel or frog, except it be to take off what is ragged and broken; and even

that

that you had better do with a knife, than leave it to an ignorant farrier.

As corns are occaſioned by too great a preſſure; horſes would not be ſo ſubject to them if the above method was practiſed, ſince the hoof in that caſe would eſcape the preſſure it is liable to in the uſual manner of ſhoeing. This is likewiſe a defence againſt pointed nails, which can never pierce the fleſh of the foot, unleſs the frog loſes its natural ſtate by being pared away. This method is likewiſe uſeful in another reſpect; it keeps open the two diviſions of the heel, and preſerves them in their natural poſition, abroad and aſunder. But the common practice of farriers is the direct contrary, who pare the frog extremely thin, in order, as they term it, to open the heel; but by this means they defeat the very thing they aim at. But this is not the only miſtake they make in ſhoeing a horſe: for they drive their nails backward on the heel, which is the ſoft and moſt ſenſible part of the hoof; but knock in none at the toe, where they would be better borne by the hard and ſtiff ſubſtance.

There are but few, except ſtone-horſes, that have high heels: but when this is the caſe with others, it is neceſſary to pare the whole hoof flat, but not to meddle with the frog

frog. When a horſe has ſo low a heel, that the fleſhy part of it comes too near the ground, he muſt be pared only at the toe. If his paſterns are ſhort, ſo muſt be his ſhoe; becauſe, in this caſe, a long ſhoe will throw his heels further back: ſo as to obſtruct the pliableneſs of his paſterns, and thereby put him in pain; which, for many reaſons, ſhould be carefully avoided. A ſhort ſhoe may indeed ſometimes occaſion little accidental lameneſſes; but when the ſhoe is long, and the nails drove far back on the heels, the conſequence will be fatal, the heels ruined, and the horſe ſpoiled. Experience makes it evident, that low-heeled horſes go beſt after they have been long ſhoed, that is, when the foot is grown longer, and the ſhoe being brought nearer to the toe, muſt of courſe ſit ſhorter.

I ſhall now mention ſome other particulars, a due attention to which, will make the practitioner to attain that ſkill in horſemanſhip, which is the ambition of the firſt perſonages in moſt civilized kingdoms.

Many gentlemen, tho' otherwiſe well ſkilled in horſemanſhip, have formed an idea, that they have no command of a horſe but by his bridle; and that the only uſe of the ſpur is to make him go forward; but a little experience and obſervation will convince them

them, that a further uſe may be made of theſe implements to good advantage. If he is touched with your left ſpur, and at the ſame time he is not permitted to go on, he takes it as a ſign to move ſideways to the right. Your right ſpur may be applied in the ſame manner, which will produce the like effect on the left. After this, he will obey a touch of your leg, without uſing the ſpur, which he ſtill retains a remembrance of. Thus, when a horſe ſtands in a ſtall, if you ſtrike him with your hand, he moves his croup to the other ſide. And you will find, by a continued practice, that his croup is as much guided by the leg, as his head is by the bridle; and he will never diſobey the leg, unleſs he happens to be in a reſtive refractory humour. Thus you will acquire an eaſy command over him; by a touch of your leg he will move ſideways, and if you clap both legs to him he will go ſtrait forwards: nay, though he ſtands ſtill, if he perceives your legs near him, he will be on the watch, and by the ſlighteſt pull of the bridle upwards, will raiſe his head, and give the ſpectators a very advantageous view of his forehand.

The proficients in the *manage* aſſert, that it is on the proper uſe of the rider's legs, and the guidance of the croup, that all the airs

airs (as they term them) are taught. It is by theſe documents the trooper is inſtructed to make the paſſage, or ſide motion, to cloſe or open the files, and to practiſe all the military evolutions. But though the trooper may receive the moſt advantage from this diſcipline, it may be uſeful to common riders, when a horſe is apt to ſtart or ſtumble. In the laſt caſe, if he feels your legs preſſing on his flanks, and his head raiſed by the bridle, he will go light on his fore legs, by which he will be aided and ſupported, which will prevent his ſtumbling, and if he actually ſtumbles, it will help him to regain his footing, if he is not precipitated beyond a poſſibility of recovery. Hence this aſſiſtance given to the horſe by the rider's hand and legs is called *Aids*; for to hold up the weight of a heavy dull horſe, by the ſtrength of your arms, is as impoſſible, as to haul him back when thrown off a precipice. A horſe is ſupported by the hands and legs of the rider, in every action which is required of him. When a horſe ſtarts you may treat him in the ſame manner. When you perceive his ſudden motion to one ſide, clap your leg cloſe on the ſame ſide, and his ſpring is inſtantly ſtopped. And if you preſs him with both legs, he keeps ſtrait on, without minding what he ſtarted at, following the direction

direction you give him, and will not fly back from any object he ſees. By the ſame means in going down a hill you will keep his haunches under him; relieve his uneaſineſs on the ſide of a bank; direct him in avoiding the wheel of a cart or carriage, and to approach gracefully to the door of a coach, or go by the ſide of a horſeman. If you have a pampered horſe, that plays his tricks, curvets irregularly, writhes his body into all poſtures, toſſes about his head from right to left, or alternately, preſs your leg to the oppoſite ſide, but not to let him go out of his track; by which means he will be prevented from ſpringing on his hind legs, on one ſide; nor on the other, becauſe his head is turned that way; for it is certain, that a horſe never ſtarts or ſprings to that ſide on which his eyes are fixed. It is very improper to ſhake your legs againſt the ſides of a horſe, a cuſtom which many riders uſe themſelves to: if a horſe has been taught, they are perpetually urging him on to violent action; and if he has not been ſo taught, they render it impoſſible for him to learn any leſſons of this kind. Beſides, if your horſe be of a hot nature, this conſtant rubbing of your legs againſt him, will make him fret exceſſively, which can be only remedied

The Manage or Riding House

medied by keeping the hands and legs ſtill, and ſitting perfectly quiet.

It may be learnt from theſe obſervations, that a horſe becomes obedient to the hand and will of the rider rather by *ſlight* than *force*; and that ſomething more is wanting to render a horſe tractable, and eaſy to be governed, than what the horſe-breaker has taught him.

When a colt is broken, the firſt leſſon he learns, is, to *mouth* the bit, and then to *pull* at it; for if he does not preſs it, it is in vain to expect he ſhould be guided by it. When he has been a little uſed to the preſſure of the bit, he gradually finds his neck ſtronger than his rider's arms; of which, when he becomes ſenſible, he will make the greater oppoſition, and will be often capable of foiling his rider. The ſkilful breaker well knows, that now is the time to teach him that ſuppleneſs and pliancy, eſpecially in his neck, on which will depend his future ſerviceableneſs and good behaviour; for *ſtiff-necked* and *diſobedient*, we know are ſynonimous terms.

The horſes neck may be called his *helm*; as he is moved by the muſcles of it.

We underſtand by the term *ſuppleneſs*, the ability and readineſs of a horſe to move every limb and part of his body, in a man-

ner agreeable to the ſignal given him by the hands and legs of the rider; as likewiſe inſtantly to perform any other motion, to bend his body, move and turn in a ſhort compaſs, and to perform whatever elſe he has been taught.

But the ſkill of the *breaker* being neceſſary to the future ſerviceableneſs of the horſe, it will be proper to give ſuch rules and directions, as that any gentleman may be capable of judging, whether his man takes the right method to initiate his colt in a proper manner; and when he is wrong to let him right.

To looſe time or money on a bad horſe is ridiculous. To prevent which, I will deſcribe ſuch beaſts. The club-headed, diſtorted in ſhape or make, with an ugly viſage, gourdy-limbed, ſhort and thick necked, of a low forehand, narrow and ſhallow breaſted; turn all ſuch to the dung-cart, carmen, or plough, as unfit for the road, or genteel ſervice. None of theſe are compounded of a true temperature of the elements, as every well-framed body ſhould be; and therefore impoſſible to be reduced to the perfection of action, otherwiſe than by abuſe and great force, which nature abhors; nor can ſuch keep what they learn but for a

ſhort

ſhort time, ſince their evil diſpoſitions will perpetually render all your care abortive.

When a horſe is become tractable by kind and familiar uſage, put on a headſtall, or a canetſane, over his noſe, with a pair of ſtrong reins, but ſo looſe and eaſy for his noſe, as may neither hurt, nor make him abate of his courage, or his quick and freſh feeling. Then in the gentleſt manner ſet a ſaddle on his back, with an upright ſhort pommel, ſo that the hand may not be hindered from its due and proper exerciſe. The bolſters of it ſhould be broader in the top to incloſe the thigh, and yet to bear ſo ſloping that the knee be not pinched; nor the thigh with-held from the true reſting place. The ſeat of the ſaddle ſhould be of a reaſonable length and largeneſs, the bolſters behind bearing forward, to incloſe and ſupport the thigh, to the bolſters in the forepart, the ſtrapper of which muſt be broad and ſtrong, and ſo muſt be the girth and buckles, which ſhould be croſs girded, ſo that the ſaddle may reſt firm on his back; which will render the ſeat eaſy, ſure, and certain. Let the off ſtirrup be almoſt half a hole ſhorter than the near.

When your horſe is become in ſome degree gentle, yet as he was never under tutorage before, and is ignorant of what his

new maſter would have him to do, ſo that he may be ſaid to be in great diffidence and perplexity; therefore, to free him from his fear and perturbation, I would have a ſtaid horſe ſaddled and rid before him, and then both to be brought to the block; but the old horſe firſt, and then the colt. At the ſame time, let the rider uſe him with all poſſible kindneſs, ſtroking and ſoothing him by kind words, and clapping his neck.

Your reins muſt be of an equal length, and you muſt hold them with eaſe, neither too tight nor too looſe, in your left hand.

Being once mounted, ſit ſtill and quietly for a while, leſt the horſe ſhould be diſturbed at any ſudden motion. When you are ſettled in the ſaddle, obſerve that your noſe be directly in a line with the horſe's foretop, between his ears, with your legs ſtrait down, neither thruſting down the toe, nor lifting up the heel, but with your foot ſo evenly in the ſtirrup, as if you ſtood on the ground. Let the ſtirrup leathers be rather ſhort than long, winding your toes ſomewhat nearer to the horſe's ſide, than the heel, holding the reins parrallel with his creſt, even with the point of the withers, juſt above the mane. Let your thighs and knees be cloſe to the ſaddle, and your feet reſting on the ſtirrup in the due place. Let your body be erect

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and ſtrait, and your ridge-bone anſwering to that of the horſe; ſo that a kind of mechanical correſpondence may appear between your body and that of the horſe.

Thus much being done, draw the horſe's head with your hand, in order to remove all fear and ill opinion of your riding. Then let him walk on ſome paces fair and ſoftly, and ſtop again, making much of him; and pace him ſoftly and quietly to the place where the rider intends to trace out a ring. All this the rider muſt do boldly and without fear. And as he muſt be thus uſed in going forward, ſo in pacing and treading out the ring he muſt be treated in the ſame manner.

Ground newly ploughed, with a deep mould, is the moſt proper for treading out the ring. Let the old horſe enter betwixt two furrows, ſo far as the rider may have ſpace and mould enough. Let the young horſe follow cloſe to him, becauſe, having the old horſe for his guide and example, he will be induced to go the more willingly. Then let the old horſe (the colt following at his heels) paſs on the right hand, athwart the furrows, and tread out twice together a round ring, containing in circuit about thirty paces; and being come a ſecond time to the place where he began, let him tread

out the like ring on the left hand, and when he has gone twice about, let him begin again on the left hand, and ſo continue till he has gone four times ſucceſſively about the left ring, and the right ſix times. This done, let him go fair and ſoftly out of the furrow where he began, about thirty or forty paces, and there ſtand ſtill, keeping his head and body right on the path. A perſon ſhould attend to obſerve, and make remarks on his performance.

When this exerciſe is performed, let him walk gently back to the place from whence he ſet out. There let the rider alight, and make much of him, by cheering him with his voice, clapping his neck, and giving him with his hand a little graſs, hay, or bread, to procure or win love. Let a horſe go before and after him, for two days.

Having proceeded thus far with your colt, let him begin and lead himſelf, and tread and pace the ring in the ſame gentle manner, for the ſpace of ten days, all the while keeping a temperate, ſteady, and fine hand upon the reins. with a ſweet feeling ſtay. See that he carries his forehead juſt as rams do when they prepare to fight; whereby he will learn not only to rein well, but bear his head ſteady and light. And when he knows how to perform what is required of him, and

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is cheriſhed for doing it, he will always be ready to do it freely. If the rider does but mind to keep his hand always ſteady, the horſe will do his duty with wonderful pride and delight; but ſevere treatment will produce the contrary effect.

While you are pacing the ring, the rider muſt not carry an over-hard hand; but ſo temperately, that the feeling may be always freſh; otherwiſe, by pulling him too violently you will gall his noſe; to avoid which, he will ſet his head and neck awry; whereas, if he ſtands in the furrow with his neck in a line with his body, the rider moves him gently forwards, and in that very motion turns him on the right hand, by drawing very ſoftly the right rein with his right hand lower under the pommel of the ſaddle, whereto if he yield (as he certainly will having trod the ſame before) let the rider immediately make much of him, without either drawing or ſlackening the rein. At which time, for his ſo doing, as well for the eaſe of the rider as the horſe, if neceſſary, let ſome ſkilful perſon come on the right ſide to his fore ſhoulder, and thruſt him by little and little, and the rider likewiſe preſs him with the calf of his right leg, and the clack of his tongue, to aid and encourage him to go forward. If a horſe be of the

right

right ſtamp, he will ſoon learn to do it. However, if he ſhould fail in the very motion of the turn, then let the rider draw the rein with his hand as before, whether it be to the right or left. All which muſt be executed with the gentleſt dealing; ſo that the horſe may hope for reſt and quietneſs. By ſuch kind treatment, the rider will generally find him ready to pay obedience to his maſter's wiſhes.

As I have already ſpoken of pacing a horſe in a ring, it follows, that after the ten days are expired, the horſe be taught to trot the ring. He muſt begin this practiſe in a ſlow gentle trot, in the ſame manner as he was at firſt taught to pace it; that is, increaſe his ring-turns by two and two every day, till he make ten turns for the left ring, and twelve for the right, which will augment his ſwiftneſs: but of this he ſhould be reſtrained till he becomes more perfect, and then he will do it with all the grace and pride imaginable; for to bring to perfection, is the very quinteſcence of art. While he is learning to trot, he muſt not be rid with a wand, or wear a bit till he is perfect in that action, ſtops, and turns well on both hands. He muſt by no means be ſuffered to gallop, till he can alſo advance well. By proceeding with him in this manner, he will

be

be exact in his pace, and juſt in his trot, with a ſtaid hand and neck.

Make it your particular care, when you begin to trot the ring, to move him thereunto, at firſt, with all the mildneſs and gentleneſs you can deviſe, and let every action be done upon a reſtrained, temperate and firm hand, with a ſweet ſtay and a true rein; that is, that his noſe be juſt under his forehead, neither jutting out, nor drawn in, but in the middle way between both, which is the juſt placing and ſetting of his head. This will give him a pleaſant mouth, when he comes to wear the bit, in which the chief point of horſemanſhip conſiſts; becauſe this gives eaſe, grace, and decorum to all his actions. This may be eaſily accompliſhed, if the horſe be of a perfect ſhape and good ſpirit. But if he makes reſiſtance, is vicious, or not well broke in, then trot him ſwiftly, with a quick voice, whip, and ſpur; for the time of his learning to trot is the fitteſt opportunity to make him forget his toys, and mind his way. And if all this doth not cure him, put him into a gallop and ſpare him not. And if this fails, depend on it, he is not worth a moment's farther notice.

I ſhall now endeavour to inſtruct the rider how to make a perfect ſtop, after he has ended the number of his ring turns. He is

then

then to trot his horſe right out in the middle furrow betwixt the rings, till he comes to the place of ſtop. There he is to make a pretty long ſtay; obſerving, the while, to keep his horſe's body right in the path; for if his body or any part of it, ſtand acroſs it, do not correct him in a paſſion for it, but let a footman put him right in the path again, as before-mentioned, by thruſting in that part that ſtandeth out of order, or cauſe the horſe to go further in the ſame path, and ſtop him, holding the rein ſtraiter on that ſide, to which he forces his head; after that, pull the other rein, which will force him to go right on. If he obeys your hand, be ſure to cheriſh him. After this you ſhould make a practice of ſtopping on uneven or ſteepy ground.

If you ſhould be diſpoſed to teach your horſe the art of going backwards, you muſt keep a firm and ſtaid hand upon him, yet with ſome liberty; then gently ſtriking him on the neck with your rod, in that inſtant ſay, *back, back.* But if he refuſes to obey, let a perſon on foot gently ſtrike him on the knees with his rod, and pull him back at the ſame inſtant, encouraging him, if he readily obeys.

Directions having been given for the rider to rule his beaſt with the uſe of the wand,

bit,

bit, or ſpur, the next thing is, to inſtruct him how to manage all three, together, with the uſe of the hand upon the bit, this being one of the chief, and indeed the principal point of horſemanſhip. Firſt then, let him take the wand very warily, that ſo his horſe be not frightened at the ſudden ſight of it; and to inure the horſe to it, let him toy and ſcratch him about the neck with the end of it; he muſt carry it in his right hand, with the point upright; and when he ſees occaſion to uſe it, let the point fall cloſe to him. In the management of it, let him lay his hand upon his right thigh, with his wand acroſs the horſe's neck; and when he is juſt turning on the left, let the rider lift up his hand and rod, and hold the point ſtrait forward on his right ſide againſt his eye; and as the turns are changed, ſo let him change his rod to the one ſide or the other. But if his horſe will not turn to the ſide he directs him, let him ſtrike him on the oppoſite ſide; and on which ſide ſoever the horſe ſhews himſelf reſtive, let him carry his wand on the contrary ſide. When you would make him carry his forehand right, ſtrike him gently on the ſhoulder, or fore-legs; and if you would have him lighter behind, ſtrike him on the rump and haunches.

I ſhall

I ſhall now proceed to the uſe of the bit, which is guided and directed only by the hand. Now, as the art of riding is grounded on the right uſe and government of the hand, under the direction of reaſon and judgment; ſo the horſe, in all his movements and actions, ought to be guided by, and anſwer to the motion of the hand.

The chief and principal care of the rider ſhould be that the firſt bit he puts in the horſe's mouth, be eaſy and pleaſant, and by no means to give him any diſguſt, yet ſo, that the gentleneſs of it cauſe him not to deſpiſe it, nor its hardneſs drive him to deſpair. The happy medium will be your beſt rule of proceeding.

If when your horſe carries his head well, you preſs it with the bridle, you muſt preſently eaſe the bridle-hand, and make much of him, for ſo readily ſhewing his obedience; and whenever he does his duty well and chearful, he ought never to be vexed, but to be ſoothed and encouraged, which kind of uſage will engage his gratitude; for horſes know how to be grateful.

Preſuming that the rider is improved by what has been already written, I will not leave him till I have done all in my power to make him a complete maſter of his art: for there are many things yet remaining, with

with which he muſt be made acquainted before he becomes a perfect horſeman.

The rider having been told in what order to keep his horſe, and that in the management of his actions and motions, he muſt obſerve a due mediocrity, our next rule is, that he ſtay him temperately with an even hand, proportionably to the reſiſtance he makes, without giving him any other liberty, but to ſtrike him gently with his rod on the bowing of his neck, provoking him with a little touch of the ſpur on the ſide to which he moſt writhes his buttock; to the end he may go properly. But if he draws in one of his fore-feet, make much of him, and then ſtay a while, and by degrees he will underſtand your intent and meaning. If you want him to go back, he will do it lightly with both his fore legs, if he is touched on the neck with the rod, and hears the word *Back* ſpoke aloud to him; at the hearing of which, the ſight of the rod, and drawing of the bridle, he will go back, to the riders deſire. And whenever he deviates from the right and true way, treat him exactly in the ſame manner.

It may appear a work of difficulty to procure a continuance of perfection in any action, although it be common upon a ſtop, or ſtanding ſtill, to bring him into order;

yet perhaps, on ſome motion, he will leave playing on the bit, and bear up his head eſpecially on a full career. But this proceeds from the want of knowing how to maintain and continue the hand juſt and firm with a ſweet ſtay, ſo that he may take pleaſure on the bit. Let us next conſider the art of governing a horſe, both when he is furious and quiet.

Let the rider carefully remark when the horſe puts himſelf in any diſorder, and ſtopping him, make him go backward, as you did before; for by this means he will be brought into right order again; then preſently make much of him, and inſtantly move him forward. In the ſame manner he muſt be uſed in treading the ring; firſt, gently upon the pace, on the trot, and the gallop; which the rider muſt be extremely careful to ſee preciſely done, otherwiſe the horſe will gape, thruſt his tongue upon, or over his bit to defend himſelf, or ſhoot out his head ſuddenly, pluck it in diſdainfully, or ſhake it one way or other, to free himſelf from the preſſure of the intemperate hand.

The rider ſhould likewiſe be attentive to the true manner of drawing the bridle. When he is mounted on the ſaddle, let him draw the reins equal. If the horſe refuſes to

obey

obey the bit, let the bit be ſlackened, and the rider hold the reins in his left hand, with the little and ring finger between, under the pommel of the ſaddle, as near the withers as poſſible, which he muſt not remove till he feels the horſe ſtay upon the bit; and hold him there without further drawing, till he perceives his head ſtand in the true form. But if he does not, then let him yield a little his left hand again, and when he has ſtood a pretty while, let him bring his left hand to its former place again, where the horſe made his firſt ſtay upon the bit; then let him draw the reins with his right hand ſomewhat more through his left, as before, but ſo little and ſoftly as ſcarce to be perceived, (for ſo muſt all the motions of the hand be) then keep it ſtaid and firm a pretty while; and if he yield, though ever ſo little, let him keep his hand ſtill at one ſtay, without either ſlackening or drawing it. By this gentle uſage the horſe will feel the eaſe he has got by yielding to it; immediately upon which you muſt careſs and make much of him. But if it ſo happen that the reins fall ſlack, the rider muſt not remove his left hand, as before, but draw them again into his right hand; to which, whenever he yield, make much of him; ſtill continuing to ſolicit him, till his head be in

its due place. If, after all, he bear not light, let the rider ſtrike him gently upon his knees, to make him go back, whereby he will bring in his head, and then will the bit move, and his hand find eaſe. But, at the ſame inſtant, let him be very careful to keep his hand ſo firm and ſteady, that he neither ſlacken nor draw it, to the end the horſe may feel and retain the eaſe of his own motion of yielding, which he will not willingly loſe, it being delightful to his nature; it gives him pleaſure to ſtir the bit in his mouth, and will go backward with it. When the rider perceives he has conquered his refractory humour, by obſerving the ſame courſe of practice, he may preſerve what he had gained, and even improve him.

I now proceed to give the initiating rider ſome further rules and directions, by the due obſervation of which, he may become a compleat horſeman.

1. When the rider is teaching his horſe any of the foregoing leſſons, or any other, let his thoughts be engaged in that buſineſs only.

2. Let him not permit any one to ride him, while he is under his care, and till he is perfect in thoſe leſſons he has been teaching him; leſt he ſhould be confounded by the

the diverſity of teachers, and their different manner of teaching.

3. When the horſe is brought to a juſt ſtay and poſition of his head, and an aſſurance of the bit, the rider's care will then be to maintain him therein.

4. When the rider finds him breaking order, let him ſtop him, and make him go back.

5. When he is in proper order, make much of him, and not ſtay long, but with a firm hand gently put him into his pace again.

6. If he continues in good order, cheriſh and encourage him, guiding his body with an eaſy and gentle motion of the calves of your legs; put him on to move more expeditiouſly, which, if he is of a generous ſpirit, he will do with alacrity; yet ſtill, unleſs he brings in his head, keep a firm hand.

7. If you feel him heavy in hand upon the trot, ſtay him, and cauſe him to go back, which will reduce him to order again: then gently put him into his pace, and ſo to his trot, as before; which being well done, ſooth and cheriſh him with your voice and hand. By which means the rider will ſo ingratiate himſelf with him, that he may guide him with a thread: then let him give him a little graſs or hay out of his hand; tickle,

and ſcratch him, and ſpeak to him in the moſt kind and loving words; this will make him, at his next exerciſe, do every thing readily, to his rider's wiſh; and within twenty days, or thereabouts, he will pace and trot in ſuch order, that the rider need not bluſh to ride him before any company in the kingdom.

8. Be careful when you firſt trot your horſe, to keep your true ſeat and firm hand, ſo that he loſe not that excellent grace and form before preſcribed. But forbear to gallop him before he is quite perfect in his ſwift trot: out of that trot put him into a ſwifter and quick gallop in the large ring, even to the ſtop: but in doing this, be cautious, that you do not haſtily draw your hand to you, but by a little ſtay of your body, back and hand together, oblige him to retreat a ſtep or two; there ſtay him, and permit him not to go forward; at the ſame inſtant make much of him; and then place your hand and body in their former poſition.

9. The truth of the rules above-recited have been verified by long experience. Let the rider therefore purſue his practice, and continue it. Let him pace his horſe over ſome deep fallow as faſt as he can for half an hour, but ſuffer him not to trot; let him keep his hand in a firm and temperate ſtay,

as

as before; and if he obſerve his head to be in due place, his carriage light and pleaſant upon the bit, he may be aſſured he has gained the perfection of the hand, and the true uſe of it, for the breaking in and teaching his young horſe. Upon the whole obſerve, that if he be of a perfect ſhape, his head will be in the due place, and fall naturally on the bit.

Preſuming that I have laid down the proper directions for any gentlemen to break in a young horſe, and the proper leſſons for perfecting him in all his proper motions and exerciſes: I ſhall diſcourſe a little of a horſe that is already taught, and perfected in his actions. With ſuch a horſe an expert rider has ſmall uſe of a rod, whip, or any other help; he has little other care, but to keep his true, juſt, and perfect ſeat, becauſe his horſe by the leaſt token of the bridle or ſpur, will do all things with perfect concord and harmony.

The difference between an expert and an ignorant rider, may be diſcovered by the actions of a well-managed horſe. Such a horſe appears with all the beauty that an animal of his order is capable of, and ſhews himſelf, as well as the expert rider, with a noble grace and dignity, and raviſhes the judicious ſpectator with delight and wonder.

All

All which perfections are attained by good diſcipline, diſcreet management, and allowing time with moderation and temperance, which the Many have little regard to; who are quite careleſs whether their horſe is in or out of order, and ride him with ſuch extremity of whip and ſpur, and the poor horſe is ſo cruelly tormented, that if he does not drop down under his burden, he is at leaſt rendered incapable of performing any other ſervice for a long while to come.

Having perfected your horſe in his leſſons; as well to trot ſwiftly, as to ſtop, and to go back; the next degree he takes, muſt be rightly to advance; which is done by lifting up his fore-feet juſt and even together, like a goat, ſomewhat above the ground, and to let them fall juſt and even, twice or thrice ſucceſſively. If he does this truely and accurately, it will enable him to make a juſt and perfect manage, and a ready and true turn. The proper method to attain this is, to trot him gently forty or fifty feet in ſome plain way, then give him a ſtop, which he will perform exactly, becauſe he has learnt it already. Let the rider always keep a ſteady and pleaſant hand on the bridle, then inſtantly with a mild voice ſay, *Hup*, *hup*, ſtriking him at the ſame moment on the ſhoulder, and alſo preſſing his ſides, with

with both calves of his legs together, but ſpur him not, if he will by any means advance without it. And you need not fear, but with a little labour and patient teaching he will attempt to do it twice or thrice together; if he do, let his rider at that inſtant make much of him; (although perhaps he did it but very indifferently) after which, let him pauſe a little, and take breath. Then trot him again in the ſame manner the like diſtance of ground, and as before, to uſe him gently again. But if he ſhould not mend every time he is taught, he muſt ſtill be ſolicited till he do better. And when he can make him advance perfectly on plain ground, then let him be taught gently on the ſide of a hill, to bring him to ſtop perfectly, and run ſliding upon his buttocks or his hind legs, which is very handſome, beautiful and graceful for manage and turn; and therefore let him learn this before he is taught any other leſſon, and then he will do it upon a ſoft trot, and afterwards upon a ſoft gallop, and not before, but never upon a ſwift gallop, till he be perfect both in turn and manage. If he advance too high, and not juſt and even, with a good grace as he ought, the fault is quickly found, and as eaſily remedied, by correcting him with an even ſtroke acroſs his legs with the wand, which

which muſt be inſtantly conveyed out of his ſight, with a ſweet ſtaid hand on the bridle.

Many horſes are apt to turn more to one ſide than the other; (eſpecially to the left than the right) yet if a horſe is of a good nature and perfect ſhape, this fault may be rectified by a little good management.

If the rules above given ſhould prove uſeful to any gentlemen to whom I have been, or may hereafter be obliged in the courſe of my profeſſion, I ſhall think myſelf amply rewarded for the trouble of compiling them.

DI-

DIRECTIONS

FOR

LADIES

TO

RIDE GRACEFULLY.

The Method of mounting.

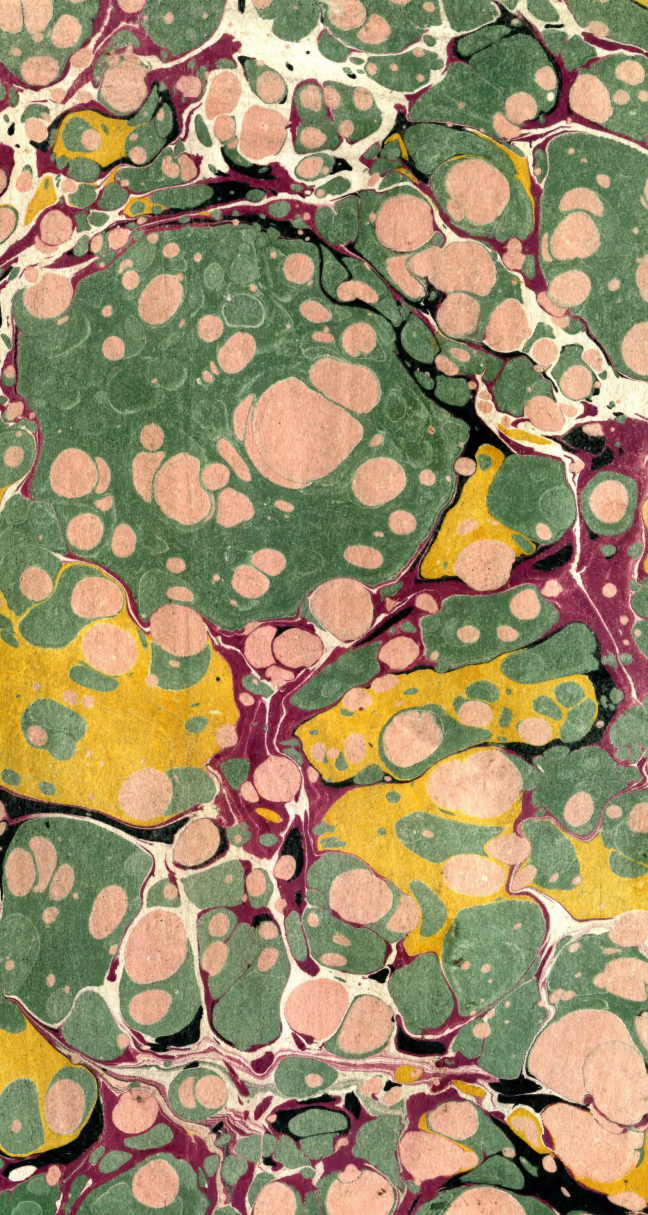
A Perſon ſhould ſtand before the head of the horſe, holding with each hand the upper part of the cheek of the bridle. Then the Lady muſt lay her right hand on the near ſide of the pommel, and her left hand on the left ſhoulder of a gentleman, (or a ſervant) who will place both his hands together, the fingers and thumbs being interwoven with each other. This being done, let the lady put her left foot firm in the gentleman's hands; and giving a little ſpring, ſhe will be vaulted into the ſaddle in a moment. When ſhe is thus ſeated, let her

her reſt the ball of her left foot firm in the ſtirrup; and, to prevent accidents, ſhe ſhould wear Italian ſhoes with very long quarters, and the heel of the ſhoe coming forward to the middle of the foot. Ladies ſhoes made in the common faſhion are dangerous, becauſe the foot reſts in the hollow between the toes and the heel. Remember that the pommel of the ſaddle ſhould be made very low, that the lady's knee may may not be thrown too high; and the ſtirrup ſhould hang low; both which circumſtances will help to give her a graceful figure, and add greatly to thoſe charms which nature has beſtowed on her. When ſhe is thus placed, let her take her whip in her right hand, near the head, with her thumb upon it, and the four fingers under it, holding it obliquely, ſo that the ſmall end of it may be ſome inches above the middle of the horſe's hind leg. The arm that ſupports the whip is always to hang ſtrait; but with a kind of negligent eaſe; nothing looks more aukward than a lady's holding the whip with her arm crooked at the elbow. A lady ſhould hold her bridle moderately ſlack, with her little finger under the rein, and the other three fingers paſſing between the rein, on the top of which her thumb muſt be placed. Being thus

thus ſeated, ſhe will pleaſe to walk her horſe off gently, and put him into his other paces at her pleaſure.

The pommel of a lady's ſaddle ſhould always be made with a turn-again ſcrew, to take off in caſe the rain, wind, or ſun is troubleſome—when a lady may ride on the contrary ſide of the horſe; which is the method purſued by the Ducheſſes of G—d—n and Gr———n, and ſeveral of the beſt horſewomen in England. When a lady has been uſed to riding, the more negligently ſhe ſits, the more gracefully, provided ſhe ſits ſafe.

The following are some of the many ATTITUDES by which Mr. HUGHES and his ASSITANTS prove their amazing DEXTERITY in HORSEMANSHIP.

THE END.

ÆNEID